

Mayor, Manager Differ on Charter Review

Torrance

Press-Herald

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Officer Buried; Police Press Search for Killer

Police Chief Vows To Continue Search

Torrance Police Chief Walter Koenig vowed that the effort to capture Officer David Seibert's killer "will continue until the suspect is in custody," before the Torrance City Council last night.

The statement was made in a 10-minute report on the search and funeral of Officer Seibert, killed trying to stop a market robbery Thursday, before the council adopted a resolution extending sympathy to the family of the slain patrolman.

Koenig said his department is "operating on the theory that the suspect is currently operating in the Los Angeles area."

PRIME suspect in the murder at Foods Co. market remains Jerry Lee O'Brien, a 34-year-old escapee from a state prison farm, who was identified by the manager of the Canyon Square Pharmacy, 12907 Van Owen St., as the man who robbed him of drugs and \$200 Sunday.

Pharmacy manager Michael Lavins told Los Angeles police that the suspect took 30 vials of narcotics, six hypodermic needles, a baby pacifier, brown hair dye, and a woman's purse after threatening him with a 45-caliber revolver.

A similar weapon was used to kill Officer Seibert as he entered the market Thursday morning.

POLICE feel that O'Brien's need for narcotics may be the lead for the suspect's apprehension.

O'Brien's mother, Mrs. Betty Lee O'Brien, 68, of 10948 Hortense St., North Hollywood, has been released from Torrance police custody on bail after being jailed Thursday for helping in the (See SUSPECTS, Page A-2)

Memorial Services Conducted

Memorial services for Police Officer David N. Seibert were attended by more than 800 police officers and friends Monday while police units from eight Los Angeles law enforcement agencies patrolled the city.

Torrance Police Chief Walter Koenig described the response to the officer's death as the deepest he has ever seen.

"In my recollection, no officer's death has affected a community so much," the Chief said.

PRESENT at the funeral were County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, State Sen. Ralph Dills, and city officials. Also present were members of law enforcement agencies from several Southern California communities, including a contingent of Officer Seibert's school mates from the Carpentaria Police Department. Interment followed at Inglewood Park Cemetery.

Chief Koenig reported that State Assemblyman Larry Townsend plans to introduce a resolution to honor the officer in the state assembly.

A CONTRIBUTION of \$500 to the David Seibert Memorial (See FUNERAL, Page A-2)



FUNERAL PROCESSION . . . The casket of Torrance Officer David Seibert follows the Rev. Dr. Frank Richelieu from memorial services Monday. After passing through a police honor guard, the officer, killed in action Thursday, was taken to Inglewood Park Cemetery for interment. (Press-Herald Photo)

For Department Heads

Isen Wants Civil Service Retained

Mayor Albert Isen voiced public opposition to a proposal by City Manager Edward Ferraro that city department heads should not be under the protection of civil service last night during the Torrance City Council meeting.

Isen said he could not agree with the manager's position that removing department heads from the civil service system would benefit the city's operation.

Ferraro suggested to the city's Charter Review Committee last Wednesday that department heads should be under the direct authority of the city manager. He said that it is very difficult to discipline a department head under the present system.

He told the committee the city manager should have the authority to hire his own staff until such time as the council wants a new city manager.

AS AN alternative to Ferraro's proposal to the committee, Isen said he would like to see a probation period of a year instead of the present period of six months. This, he said, would offer a

longer period of observation before the man was covered by civil service protection. Isen instructed City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer to look into possibilities of an amendment to the present system for council action.

FERRARO, in his presentation to the committee last week, also asked the committee to study carefully a proposal to appoint — rather than elect — the city treasurer. He said he felt the need for an elected treasurer was an "anachronism."

He did, however, say that the city clerk should remain an elected official to provide a check against the possibility that a corrupt city manager might subvert the city's records.

Ferraro also suggested that the committee study plans to prevent the city council from overruling the city manager on administrative organization by a simple majority. He asked that a five-sevenths vote be required.

HIS REASON, Ferraro explained, is that the council is not a party to the day-to-day

functions of the city and that it also is subject to lobbying by city employees.

He also questioned the advisability of continuing to require city employees — especially those whose salaries are in the lower ranges — to live within the city. Citing the job of recruiting new policemen, Ferraro said the job requires a "special breed" and warned that beginning officers with young families could not always afford to buy homes in the city.

In general, Ferraro told the committee, those persons who prepared the section of the charter which deals with the city manager's responsibilities provided the latitude and flexibility to get the job done.

Council Orders Billboard Study

Torrance Councilmen have given the city's Planning Commission 30 days in which to come up with recommendations on a code for billboards within the city.

Spearheaded by requests for temporary billboards for a subdivision, the council requested the action last night after they were informed by City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer that granting the billboards would destroy the present billboard moratorium.

Building and Safety Director John McKinnon reported to the council that the request should be denied but that it was "difficult to administer the problem without an ordinance."

COUNCILMAN J. A. Beasley said that the council was getting into an impossible sit-

uation. You can't sell your home or homes if you don't have a sign, he said.

At present, a sign which appears on property not owned by the owner of the sign comes under the billboard ordinance.

Councilman Edward Talbert asked the city attorney to "prepare a relief measure on the moratorium."

IN OTHER council action, the council paved the way for the incorporation of Western Avenue into the state highway system when it passed a resolution authorizing the mayor and city clerk to make an agreement with the state.

The council action followed similar action Monday night by the Lomita City Council which instructed the Lomita (See COUNCIL, Page A-2)



TO OPEN FRIDAY . . . Members of the cast of "Hansel and Gretel" are pictured here in a scene from the oft-told legend which will be presented Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the Torrance Recreation Center. Pictured are (from left) Mark Krech as Hansel, Debbie Goodloe as Gretel, Laura Lemisch as the Witch. Looking on as the Witch attempts to turn the two youngsters into ginger bread are Cindy Brewer and Carl Hansen, who play the roles of the stepmother and father. (Press-Herald photo)



HELPING OUT . . . Policewomen Barbara Haynes (left) of Inglewood and Barbara Perkins of Culver City temporarily take over the Torrance police switchboard during the funeral of Officer David Seibert. Torrance's entire 157-man police force attended services for Officer Seibert while station duties were handled by law officers from surrounding cities. (Press-Herald Photo)

'Hansel and Gretel' Set For Opening Here Friday

A cast of 55 Torrance youngsters will climax a summer of drama classes Friday evening with the premiere of the oft-told legend of "Hansel and Gretel."

The children's production will be presented Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd. There is no admission charge.

Under the direction of Mel Grubb and Lory Hansen, the children's play will climax three months of classes in basic acting, teenage acting, and stagecraft and introduction of the theater. The entire cast is composed of youngsters from 8 to 16 years of age.

FEATURED as Hansel is Mark Krech, while Debbie Goodloe will play Gretel. Carl Hansen will play Father Hans and Cindy Brewer will appear as the stepmother.

Witch Wicked will be portrayed by Laura Lemisch and Jerald Pancake will appear as Johann. Others in the cast include Darcy Rice as Mr. White Cat, Vincent Ferraro as Fritz, Kevin Hillcock as Peter, Woody Sorenson as Helga, Robin Thompson as Freerica, and Marisa Sodara as Katharine.

Angels are played by Vicki Smith, Debby Smith, Julie Lillo, Pam Horwich, Trudi Packman, Pam Barton, Francie Morelli, Rhonda Sudduth, Debra Goodrich, Debra German, Jamie Lowder, Mary Griffith, Cinday Frank, and Suzanne Lemisch. Flowers are Camille Barton, Susan De

Palma, Suzanne St. Marie, Lorraine Mondor, and Kathleen Fisher.

POSING AS trees are Mary McDonald, Patty McDonald, Laura Merenbach, Melissa Williams, Diane Alexander, and Kathy Alexander. Stars Kristi Fisher, Nancy Griffith, Colette Barton, and Linda Gail Hartmark, Gayle Ger-

main, Randy Mayem, and Roberta Ellis.

Charles Titus and Sam Dorenson will portray animals and the Sandman is played by Ken Krech. Taking the part of mushrooms are Thea Erickson, Kristi Fisher, Nancy Griffith, Colette Barton, and Linda Alexander.

Long Beach Man Killed . . .

A traffic accident on 190th Street near East Flagler Avenue claimed the life of James Tarantino, 22, of 1460 Ximeno Ave., Long Beach, Sunday. The car Tarantino was driving bounced over a hill top, throwing him out, police said. The accident occurred near the Torrance city boundary line in Redondo Beach. Passenger Kent Bennett of Hermosa Beach sustained only minor injuries, it was reported.

Robbery Charge Jails Man . . .

California Highway Patrolmen arrested Joseph Bozara, 21, of 16315 Haas St., on charges of armed robbery, exhibiting a firearm, carrying a concealed weapon, and possession of narcotics early this morning after he allegedly threatened the officers with a .32 caliber revolver. Officers stopped the suspect at Redondo Beach Boulevard and Van Ness Avenue after they learned that the suspect was carrying a gun in his back pocket. The gun was reportedly pointed at officers as they drove up to the scene. Bozara was taken into custody without any shots being fired.

Man Stabbed Chasing Thief . . .

A pair of suspected burglars are being sought by Torrance police in connection with the stabbing of Russel Belters, 23, of 1713 Pine Drive, today after a foot chase with one of the suspects. Belters said a blond man walked into his home at 2:30 a.m. and immediately fled after seeing him. He chased the suspect on Pine Drive to Acacia Avenue where a second suspect stabbed Belters five times with a 6-inch knife while the blond suspect was trying to enter the second suspect's auto.